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# 'I'M JUST TOBIAS'

## Trans teen asks school to scrap his 'dead' name from report cards

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LYLE STAFFORD/FOR METRO

## PUNK AND DISORDERLY

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Birchwood KIA West

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COMMISSIONER'S ROLE

# Walsh named city's integrity official

A prominent human rights lawyer has been named the city's first integrity commissioner.

On Wednesday, council voted unanimously to appoint Sherri Walsh of the law firm Hill Sokalski Walsh Olson LLP. Walsh also acted as counsel to retired judge Ted Hughes during the Phoenix Sinclair inquiry.

Coun. John Orlikow recused himself from the vote because Walsh contributed to his campaign.

Councillors Jason Schreyer, Russ Wyatt and Ross Eadie also left the room, citing conflict of interest concerns, but didn't specify a reason.

In her new role, Walsh will advise councillors on conflict of interest issues, either real or perceived, and take complaints from the public about the behaviour of officials.

The commissioner will report directly to council and be required to submit an annual report of activities.

The commissioner's duties include the development of a new code of conduct, and control over a lobbyist registry, should one be established.

Gerbasi said she believes the province needs to change the City of Winnipeg Charter to give a commissioner full investigative and disciplining powers.

Even without those powers, she explained, the role is needed greatly to keep the behaviour of elected officials and employees in line and ensure workplace bullying doesn't happen.

She suggested the commissioner could establish a sexual harassment policy.

In 2011, Walsh acted as counsel to retire judge Ted Hughes during the Phoenix Sinclair inquiry.

Walsh will start her new role as early as April 1, 2017. It will be a two-year contract, with option for renewal of up to an additional five, two-year terms.

The city has set aside $100,000 for the new office of the integrity commissioner.

Of that, the commissioner will earn a yearly retainer of $25,000, with an additional $200 hourly compensation.

STEPHANIE TAYLOR / METRO

# Food policy council gets OK to operate

City councillors also approved a food policy council at Wednesday's meeting.

Essentially, the council would explore ways the city could promote access to health food, whether that's through transportation, land-use rules and community services.

"Food security is vital as our city grows," Coun. Cindy Gilroy said.

Coun. Jenny Gerbasi said she has received an "outpouring" of feedback from residents on this matter, noting the project has been years in the making.

"People need healthy food and a lot of times they can't afford the food on the shelves," she said.

The food council will cost the city $69,000 in annual fees .

That cash would need to be approved through the 2018 budget.

STEPHANIE TAYLOR / METRO

Janice Lukes, left, knows she'll take heat. Brian Bowman vowed to call for an inquiry. METRO FILE; THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

# Lukes stands alone

CITY HALL

## Councillor sees no need for inquiry into police HQ reno

Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

Janice Lukes was the sole dissenter in council's call for a provincial inquiry into how business was done at city hall under the former administration.

On Wednesday, the St. Norbert councillor told her colleagues that, in principle, she's not opposed to an inquiry, but called the request to probe former real-estate deals "premature."

She cited the ongoing RCMP investigation into allegations of fraudulent billing around the redevelopment of the new police headquarters and voiced concerns an inquiry could interfere with the investigation.

"I realize today I may be the only one not voting to call an inquiry, and I know I will take heat for that," she said.

"But I must adhere to my principles. I'm not sheep or a rubber stamp.

"I do not want to prejudice a criminal investigation for political reasons."

Lukes questioned why councillors need to rush into the inquiry request, arguing that the public has yet to see all the facts and evidence in the police headquarters case.

Other councillors did not share her concerns about timing and argued the city has a responsibility to restore residents' trust in city hall and take action.

"The time has come for this motion," Coun. Russ Wyatt said.

Mayor Brian Bowman promised he would call for a provincial inquiry after these allegations came to light.

He previously has explained that a commission of inquiry would compel former city employees to testify under oath and get to the bottom of unanswered questions around numerous real-estate transactions.

An inquiry, however, would neither conclude nor recommend any criminal or civil liability for an individual or organization.

The province has expressed no interest in holding a commission of inquiry while the RCMP investigation remains ongoing.

"In order to ensure the integrity of the process, the Attorney General of Manitoba will not be commenting while this issue remains under active criminal investigation," government spokeswomen Olivia Baldwin-Valanis sent in an email to Metro Wednesday.

In response, Bowman underlined the province is only being asked to commit to an inquiry, and the timing is up to them.

Bowman said other inquiries have coincided with police investigations, citing the Charbonneau Commission's probe into the awarding of construction contracts in Quebec.

Moving forward, Bowman told reporters, he plans to raise the issue with Premier Brian Pallister in person and through a formal letter.

Asked about whether any city funds could pay for an inquiry, Bowman said he wouldn't rule it out, but added typically, the province foots the bill.

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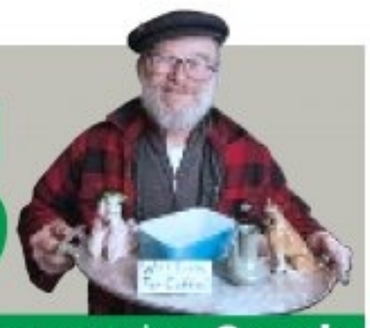

Ottawa couple trades vintage belongings for cups of Joe, conversation. **Canada**

EDUCATION

# School levies going up

**Braeden Jones**
Metro | Winnipeg

Despite Premier Brian Pallister's request, Winnipeg school taxes are going up.

But the question is "by how much?" according to Winnipeg School Division (WSD) board vice-chair Chris Broughton.

"We're looking at three options," Broughton explained.

He said that despite Pallister's ask of school divisions to "get down to a situation where there's no tax increase," the WSD doesn't believe that's even possible. "We would be looking at roughly $20 million in reductions to achieve that … so we don't plan on getting it down to zero per cent increase, because we'd have to slash and burn to achieve that." That could mean cutting as many as 200 teachers, in addition to other programs and services.

The lowest percentage increase to the special education levy the board dreamt up is a three per cent hike. With that, the WSD would "have to find $5 million in reductions."

Option 2 includes a 3.9 per cent tax increase, along with roughly $1.2 million worth of belt-tightening.

"In order to expand and look at enhancing programming, which is Option 3, we would have to see a 4.5 per cent increase in the property tax levy," Broughton said, adding there would be about $1.3 million in new program funding.

ASSINIBOINE PARK ZOO

**POLAR BEAR CUB COMING**

Winnipeg is scooping up a new polar bear cub from the Toronto Zoo. The zoo announced Wednesday that one-year-old Juno is moving to the Assiniboine Park Zoo on March 1. She was born over a year ago at the Toronto Zoo and hand-raised because her mother couldn't produce milk. Her move to Winnipeg will give her the chance to engage with other polar bear cubs around her age.

COLE BURSTON FOR TORONTO STAR

# Man apologizes for sex attacks

HEARING

## Court told two men violently assaulted girl, woman at night

A man who took part in two random and violent sex attacks — one of which left a victim clinging to life on the bank of a river — wept in court Wednesday as he apologized.

"I feel really bad, really frickin' bad for what I did," the man told his sentencing hearing.

He cannot be identified because he was 17 at the time of the assaults.

"I know what (the victims) went through. I went through it for five years by my own uncle."

The man, who had to stop to catch his breath at one point, said he has also been affected by what he did because he has been dealing with threats and intimidation while in custody.

"It's hard to go through this."

He pleaded guilty last year to two counts of aggravated sexual assault and is being sentenced as an adult. The defence is seeking a sentence of seven years, minus 3-1/2 years for the time he has spent in custody. The Crown has asked for a 20-year sentence minus the same time credit.

Justin Hudson, who was 20 at the time, has pleaded guilty to the same charges and is awaiting sentencing.

"The level of violence was gratuitous and excessive," Crown attorney Jennifer Comack told court Wednesday.

"The facts themselves are utterly horrific."

Court heard the man and Hudson went out on the night of Nov. 8, 2014, planning to steal cars.

They first came upon a 16-year-old girl, and beat and robbed her. The man held her down while Hudson sexually assaulted her. She ended up in the Assiniboine River, crawled out 100 metres downstream and was attacked again with a hammer.

A passerby found her hours later. She was technically dead for 45 minutes before being revived in hospital, and would go on to become an advocate for a national inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women.

A few hours later, the man and Hudson came across a 23-year-old woman. They beat her severely and repeatedly sexually assaulted her. She spent three days in hospital with a concussion and facial injuries.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# No asterisk needed, the rookie scoring record belongs to Laine

## It's complicated but wing's goal mark needs to be recognized

JONES ON JETS
Braeden Jones

With two rocket-like blasts rippling the twine Monday night, Patrik Laine's goal total hit 30 in his rookie season.

That means the young sniper's already impressive first NHL campaign went from story-book to the history books, as he became just the fifth rookie in 25 years to score 30 goals in 55 games or fewer.

That's a league-wide stat. It's clear and straightforward, the record is clear, timeline is clear — he scored more goals in his first 55 games than all but a handful of the NHL's best players of the past quarter century.

But with his 30th goal he also claimed the Winnipeg Jets franchise record* for rookie scoring, which, despite being anything but straightforward, needs to be recognized as legitimate.

The temptation to discount Laine's record* stems from the fact that a rookie with a Jets logo on the front of his sweater (and "Selanne" on the back) scored 76 goals in 1993. That was the best rookie season ever, so Winnipeggers love the stat so much that they insist on discrediting Laine's record — with an asterisk — set Monday.

To be fair, they're partly right. Teemu Selanne still holds the franchise record, but it belongs to the Arizona Coyotes franchise since that Jets team moved south in 1996. Not the Winnipeg Jets.

The franchise record* Laine now holds moved to Winnipeg from Atlanta with the team in 2011; the player he passed on the leaderboard was Ilya Kovalchuk. He's many goals away from Selanne's high water mark, but that's no reason to add a "Yeah but..." to every mention of his record.*

**30**

Number of goals Jets' forward Patrik Laine scored in his first 55 NHL games, an achievement matched only by a handful of players.

Kovalchuk's NHL totals, with time split between Atlanta and New Jersey, includes 816 points in 816 games. He was an elite forward for the franchise Laine plays for today, and in any other market, there are no 'Yeah buts' when a current player takes over a franchise record.

Plus, Kovalchuk held the record for 15 years, having set it back in 2002. If 18-year-old Laine's record* stands for as long, he'll be a 33-year-old veteran player before someone starts sniping away at his old record* in Winnipeg. He deserves the chance to see it stand the test of time, but it won't if another franchise's records get pulled into the mix.

It makes sense that Selanne is an important part of the city's hockey history. He's a hall-of-fame-calibre player who started his career here. He tallied 1,457 NHL points in 1,451 NHL games, and even if only four of those seasons were in Winnipeg, his accomplishments matter — that rookie scoring mark most of all.

The cool thing about Laine and other Jets 2.0 players chasing franchise records is that they have both the history of their franchise (via Atlanta), and the golden age of the city's old franchise (now Arizona) to compete with.

Fans can recognize Laine as a legitimate star, the best scoring rookie their team has ever had, and still remember fondly when they had an even better one.

But the fact is when True North brought the Thrashers franchise to Winnipeg and slapped the Jets moniker on it, that didn't magically bring old Jets records from Arizona. It might be Winnipeg's history, but they're just not Winnipeg's records anymore.

If Laine passed Selanne's goal total, Arizona wouldn't change its franchise records. He and his peers on this exciting, skilled Jets team deserve the chance to make their own history and set records in a new era — individually and as a team.

The league qualifies records with time because the game has changed so much, but Winnipeg doesn't have to do that.

If anything, the Jets' record-keeping is made easier by the franchise switcheroo providing clear delineation between the modern and golden age. So when records are set here, let's try celebrating them as such instead of adding asterisks.

*Most goals scored by a rookie with this particular version of the Winnipeg Jets.

Winnipeg Jets right wing Patrik Laine reacts following his team's 5-4 loss in overtime against the Toronto Maple Leafs, in Toronto on Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS/CHRIS YOUNG

> The temptation to discount Laine's record* stems from the fact that a rookie with a Jets logo on the front of his sweater (and "Selanne" on the back) scored 76 goals in 1993.

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# Billy Talent true to punk-rock roots

MUSIC

## Band to play big spectacle in 'Peg, but stays grounded

Nigel Moore
For Metro | Winnipeg

There was the guy with the glass eye at a show in Thunder Bay more than 12 years ago, recalls Ian D'Sa of Billy Talent.

"There was this guy in the front row. Between songs, he asked me if I wanted to hold his eyeball," said D'Sa, who is guitarist, chief songwriter and producer for the Toronto alt-rock band.

"He had a glass eye, and I remember him passing it up to me on stage. And I was holding it up to the audience, and then I gave it back to him," he said.

That kind of thing no longer happens now that D'Sa and his bandmates in Billy Talent — drummers Jordan Hastings and Aaron Solowoniuk, bassist Jonathan Gallant and frontman Ben Kowalewicz — have moved up to much bigger shows, like the one they have lined up Thursday at the MTS Centre.

Billy Talent's Afraid of Heights Tour will hit the MTS Centre on Thursday. SUPPLIED/ WARNER MUSIC CANADA

The experience is different now, said D'Sa.

"Back then, (we were) literally just nuts and bolts; stripped down, on a stage in a sweaty club," he said. "But what we're doing with this record and where we are now, it has more production value and it's a bigger spectacle than anything we've done before."

That's not to say that Billy Talent has lost touch with its punk-rock roots, however.

"I grew up listening to punk music," said D'Sa. "I love it and I still listen to a lot of the bands I did in the early '90s. I literally hang out in the same bars when I'm home in Toronto."

> **"I still listen to a lot of the bands I did in the early '90s.**
> Ian D'Sa

"I think maybe sometimes people will change when they do get some success. But us being together from the start, and still together now, has kept us grounded and kept us true to why we started the band in the first place."

Tickets are $40.50 to $60.50 at Ticketmaster. A $135.50 VIP Package includes soundcheck viewing and exclusive merchandise items.

The band has partnered with Plus One so that $1 from every ticket sold goes to support MusiCounts, a Canadian non-profit organization that provides schools with musical instruments and F.U.MS, a foundation that creates a series of events to support Canadian youth affected by Multiple Sclerosis.

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# Trans teen fights for preferred name on school report cards

IDENTITY

## District claims it's powerless while province mulls changes

Jessica Botelho-Urbanski
For Metro|Winnipeg

Tobias Berger dreads getting his report card results back, as many teens do.

But there's an extra stressor making him upset.

The 14-year-old transgender teen says his school, Miles MacDonell Collegiate, and school division, River East Transcona, continue to use his "dead name" on academic papers.

About two years ago, Tobias said, he came out as transgender and began using a new name. But the school continues to use his former name on correspondence, the Grade 9 student said in an interview Tuesday.

"Everyone calls me (Tobias) and everyone knows me by it. So if no one knows me by the other name, why would they need to?" he said. "When they call me down to the office or in class they do use (Tobias), but not on the report card or really any notes going home."

On his latest report card, distributed Feb. 14, Tobias scratched out his "dead name" and put his preferred one overtop.

His dad, Kurt Berger, called the River East Transcona School Division to try and have the situation addressed. He was referred to the Manitoba Department of Education after staff at River East told him there was nothing they could do.

Tobias Berger holds the report card from River East School Division using his "dead name." LYLE STAFFORD/FOR METRO

"If he wants to use his name and I'm OK with him using his name, then I don't understand what the issue is," Kurt Berger said.

"It's almost like a rejection. The schools do their part — talk the talk when it comes to inclusion. Unfortunately when something like this happens, it's a huge step backwards."

> I'm already upset that I can't get my name legally changed at the moment... It would change a lot.
> Tobias Berger

In an emailed response Tuesday, the school division's superintendent Kelly Barkman said names on report cards are taken from Vital Statistics.

Therefore, a student's name would have to be legally changed before the school could change it in their records.

Tobias said he plans to change his name legally once he turns 18.

"We suggested Mr. Berger call the Department of Education because during the development of the (gender identity) guidelines, they advised us a student's legal name must be on their report card. This is the requirement for all students in K-12," Barkman told Metro.

Barkman said he hasn't heard from any other parents or students wanting name changes on report cards, but the division would be open to the idea if the province broached the subject.

"We want to treat all of our transgender students with respect and care," he said.

A provincial spokesperson said the government is mulling the idea of new parameters for name changes.

"Report cards, transcripts and diplomas are legal documents and, as such, they require a student's legal name," the spokesperson said in an email Tuesday. "However, the Manitoba government is aware of this issue and is reviewing the matter of preferred name on report cards with legal counsel to determine appropriate advice for school divisions and ensure consistency with respect to such documents."

For those who don't know Tobias is transgender, seeing his former name on report cards outs him unnecessarily, the teen said.

He wants his name changed on future report cards to avoid more embarrassment.

"I'm not ashamed of being trans, but they don't really need to know," Tobias said of his schoolmates.

"I don't really talk about it a lot," he said of being transgender. "I'm just me now. I'm just Tobias now and I don't really talk about it because there's really no need to."

"(The name change) would make me feel so much better because I'm already upset that I can't get my name legally changed at the moment. It would just..." he paused, sighing. "It would change a lot."

Tobias said he is occasionally bullied and the perpetrators will sometimes use his "dead name" to taunt him.

"When that name's on the report card, (bullies) think it's an excuse," he said. "So if it's changed I think it would just make my life a lot easier and (more) stress-free."

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# Border deal defended

TRAVEL

## Opposition says bill fails to take Trump into account

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau defended his government's proposed legislation to expand border preclearance at Canadian airports and other crossings Wednesday as the opposition New Democrats pushed to stop the bill in its tracks.

The NDP argued the bill doesn't take into account what it called "the climate of uncertainty at the border" created by the Trump administration's immigration policies.

But Trudeau suggested it's better to be cleared for entry into the United States while in Canada, because travellers are protected under the Canadian charter of rights, as opposed to American laws.

Bill C-23, the Preclearance Act, came up for second reading in the House of Commons on Tuesday.

Introduced by Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale last June, it would replace and expand provisions of the Air Transport Preclearance Agreement signed between Canada and the United States in 2001.

The two countries signed a new agreement in 2015 to expand border clearance. Proponents say measures included in the bill will speed the flow of people and goods across the border.

Under preclearance, travellers don't have to pass through customs in the U.S. because they've already done so before departing Canada. Critics have concerns about the legislation, arguing that it would lead to the erosion of rights of people travelling both to the United States and Canada.

The bill "does not address Canadians' concerns about being interrogated, detained and turned back at the border based on race, religion, travel history or birthplace as a result of policies that may contravene the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms," NDP public-safety critic Matthew Dube said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

## 150 WAYS of looking at Canada

POSTCARD NO. 23

### SACKVILLE, NEW BRUNSWICK

EACH TIME I VISIT, I LEAVE A PIECE OF MY HEART BEHIND IN SACKVILLE, NEW BRUNSWICK. **DANIELLE LENARCIC BISS**

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OTTAWA

# Brewing up a whole new barter system

**Alex Parsons**
For Metro | Ottawa

Cost of two medium Tim Horton's coffees: $3.58. Value of potential return, in cool old stuff and the company of an nice elderly couple: Priceless.

Rod and Marguerite MacDonald are retired federal government workers who have been trading old, kitschy wares for cups of Joe, conversation and, occasionally, food.

"It's almost a cashless society now," Rod MacDonald said. "Older people have money in their pocket, younger people don't. I think the barter economy has come on."

He said the whole thing started when they began renovating their house in early February and were pulling things out of storage. Marguerite put an ad on the "free stuff" section of Kijiji: "Could you bring my hubby and I a coffee?'"

"That day we had four people coming over, bringing us coffee, and they got great value for a coffee," MacDonald said.

**Rod MacDonald**
JUSTIN TANG/FOR METRO

"After three or four coffees, my stomach was a little upset — you know, rumbling away — so I said, 'Honey, let's change it to a Big Mac,' and before you know it, I had a Big Mac delivered at 4:30."

Among the items that have been offered up so far are historical pictures, including one of a shelled French village from World War I, an aerial view of Parliament Hill from the 1950s and a painting of the Rideau Canal done by one of MacDonald's brothers.

The couple also advertised "a bunch of 50 year old stamps" and a variety of other collectibles. "Remnants from garage sales," Rod calls them.

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**An artist's conception of what the surface of the exoplanet TRAPPIST-1f may look like,** based on available data about its diameter, mass and distances from the host star. NASA/JPL-CALTECH VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Actually, it's not so lonely out in space

ASTRONOMY

## Discovered: seven worlds, and some could support life

For the first time, astronomers have discovered seven Earth-size planets orbiting a single nearby star — and these new worlds could hold life.

This cluster of planets is less than 40 light-years from Earth, or 235 trillion miles away, in the constellation Aquarius, according to NASA and the Belgian-led research team who announced the discovery Wednesday.

The planets circle tightly around a dim dwarf star called Trappist-1, barely the size of Jupiter. Three are in the so-called habitable zone, the area around a star where water and, possibly life, might exist. The others are right on the doorstep.

Scientists said they need to study the atmospheres before determining whether these rocky, terrestrial planets could support some sort of life. But it already shows just how many Earth-size planets could be out there — especially in a star's sweet spot, ripe for extraterrestrial life. The more planets like this, the greater the potential of finding one that's truly habitable. Until now, only two or three Earth-size planets had been spotted around a star.

"We've made a crucial step toward finding if there is life out there," said the University of Cambridge's Amaury Triaud, one of the researchers.

**COSMIC**

- Astronomers have confirmed close to **3,600** planets outside our solar system since the 1990s.
- Barely **four dozen** are in the potential habitable zone of their stars, and of those, just **18** are approximately the size of Earth.

The potential for more Earth-size planets in our Milky Way galaxy is mind-boggling. The history of planet-searching shows "when there's one, there's more," said Massachusetts Institute of Technology astrophysicist Sara Seager.

"With this amazing system, we know that there must be many more potentially life-bearing worlds out there just waiting to be found," she said.

NASA's Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator for the science mission, said the discovery "gives us a hint that finding a second Earth is not just a matter of if, but when," and addresses the age-old question of "Are we alone out there?"

"We're making a step forward with this, a leap forward in fact, toward answering that question," Zurbuchen said at a news conference.

Last spring, the University of Liege's Michael Gillon and his team reported finding three planets around Trappist-1. Now the count is up to seven, and Gillon said there could be more. Their latest findings appear in the journal Nature.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. ADMINISTRATION

# Trump to lift trans bathroom guidance

The Trump administration will revoke federal guidelines that tell public schools to let transgender students use bathrooms and locker rooms matching their chosen gender identity, the White House said Wednesday.

The decision would be a reversal of an Obama-era directive advising public schools to grant bathroom access to students in line with their expressed gender identity and not necessarily the gender on their birth certificate.

White House spokesman Sean Spicer said Wednesday that the previous administration's guidelines were confusing and hard to implement and that new directives would be issued later in the day. A government official with direct knowledge of the plans told The Associated Press that the Obama-era guidance would be rescinded, though anti-bullying safeguards would not be affected. The official was not authorized to speak publicly about the plans and did so on condition of anonymity.

Although the Obama guidance carried no force of law, transgender rights advocates say it was necessary to protect students from discrimination.

> "Certain issues like this are not best dealt with at the federal level."
> Sean Spicer

Opponents argued it was overreach and said it violated the safety and privacy of all other students.

Spicer said that the Departments of Justice and Education were working together on the new document.

"The president has made it clear throughout the campaign that he is a firm believer in states' rights," he said.

The Obama administration's guidance was based on its determination that Title IX, the federal law prohibiting sex discrimination in education and activities, also applies to gender identity.

While not legally binding, the guidance sent a warning that schools could lose funding if they did not comply.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## POLITICAL DIGEST

**Republicans avoiding stormy town halls**
Republicans who benefited from rowdy town halls six years ago and harnessed a wave of discontent with Democrats to win seats in Congress are learning a hard lesson this week as they return home: The left is happy to return the favour.

Across the U.S., Democrats and their allies are spending this short congressional recess protesting elected Republican politicians who are avoiding the events that often turn into shouting matches. AP

**Revised immigration order delayed until next week**
The White House is pushing back the release of President Donald Trump's revamped refugee and immigration executive order until next week.

Trump had said his administration would unveil the new order this week, but a White House official says that has been delayed. AP


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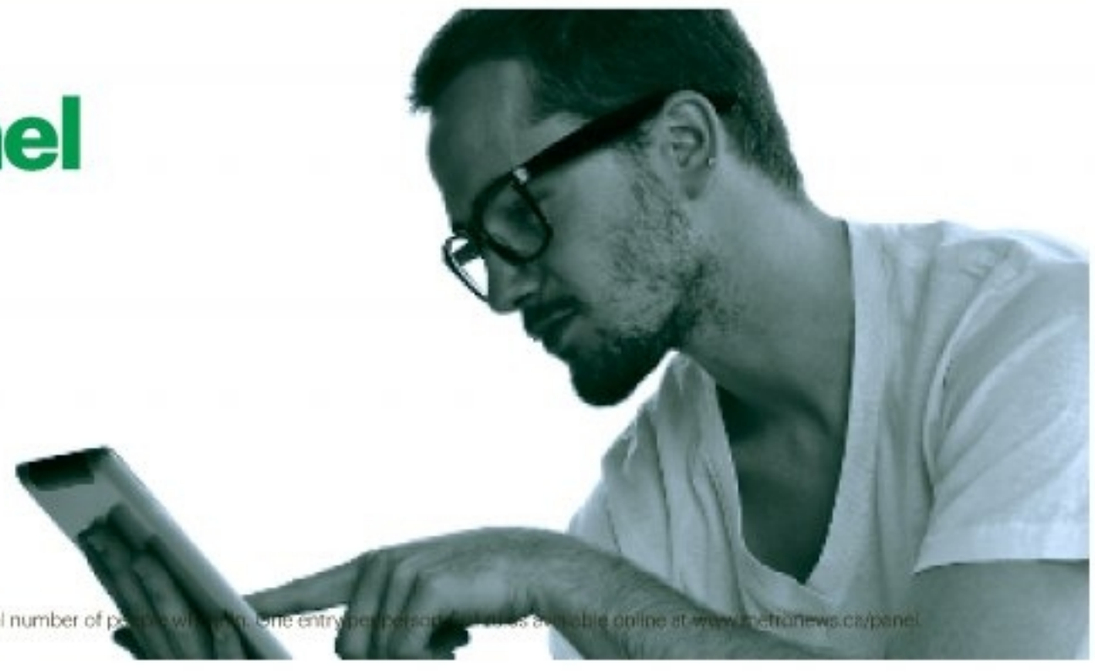

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# Suicide bomber was ex-Gitmo detainee

IRAQ

## Concerns over how Britain lost track after man's release

A suicide bomber who attacked a military base in Iraq this week was a former Guantanamo Bay detainee freed in 2004 after Britain lobbied for his release, raising questions about the ability of security services to track the whereabouts of potential terrorists.

Daesh identified the bomber as Abu Zakariya al-Britani, and two British security officials also confirmed the man was a 50-year-old Briton formerly known as Ronald Fiddler and as Jamal al-Harith.

He was one of 16 men paid a total of 10 million pounds (now worth $12.4 million) in compensation in 2010, when the British government settled a lawsuit alleging its intelligence agencies were complicit in the torture of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, according to the officials.

Al-Harith was a web designer and convert to Islam when he set off on a visit to a religious retreat in Pakistan in October 2001.

He was detained at gunpoint near the border with Afghanistan and turned over to the Taliban. A couple of months later he was liberated by the Northern Alliance but was turned over to the Americans and sent to Guantanamo Bay. Like many others, he claims he was tortured there.

Al-Harith and 15 others had sued the British government, alleging it knew about or was complicit in their treatment.

Arthur Snell, a former head of the Prevent program, which is part of the Britain's counter terrorism strategy, said the authorities clearly had lost track of him.

"It's obvious that collectively, the authorities — and obviously I have some personal responsibility there — we failed to be aware of what Fiddler was up to," he told the BBC. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Daesh identified the bomber as Abu Zakariya al-Britani. British officials confirmed the man was a Briton also known as Ronald Fiddler and Jamal al-Harith. NINAWA STATE VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MALAYSIA

# North Korea mocks poison plot claims

The two women suspected of fatally poisoning a scion of North Korea's ruling family were trained to coat their hands with toxic chemicals and then wipe them on his face, police in Malaysia said Wednesday, announcing they were seeking a North Korean diplomat in connection with the attack.

But the North Korean Embassy ridiculed the police account of Kim Jong Nam's death at a Malaysian airport, demanding the immediate release of the two "innocent women."

If the toxins had been on their hands "then how is it possible that these female suspects could still be alive?" demanded a statement from North Korea's embassy in Kuala Lumpur. Police say the women — one of them Indonesian, the other Vietnamese — washed their hands soon after poisoning Kim, the long-estranged half brother of the North Korean ruler.

Earlier Wednesday, Inspector-General of Police Khalid Abu Bakar told reporters that authorities are searching for two new North Korean suspects, the second secretary of North Korea's embassy in Kuala Lumpur and an employee of North Korea's state-owned airline, Air Koryo. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## SOMALIA

**New president warns it will take 20 years to 'fix' nation**

Somalia's new leader was inaugurated Wednesday while promising to restore dignity to the troubled Horn of Africa nation but warning it will take another two decades to "fix" the country.

President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, who also holds U.S. citizenship, was elected earlier this month.

He said Somalia's main obstacles are insecurity and humanitarian crises, including a drought that the UN has said affects millions of people. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, February 23, 2017

## CHANTAL HÉBERT ON POST-BUDGET BYELECTIONS

# Only sure-things are up for grabs in the spring votes, but the losses will be personal

Under the guise of the first large set of byelections since Justin Trudeau became prime minister, voters are about to turn a definitive corner on generational change on Parliament Hill.

The vote to take place on April 3 in the immediate aftermath of the federal budget in five ridings spread across Quebec, Ontario and Alberta will not — despite the hype — amount to a major test of the government or, for that matter, the Conservative official Opposition.

Three of the ridings at play are among the safest Liberal seats in the land. At the worst of times for the party, in 2011, the ridings all returned Liberal MPs with a relatively comfortable majority.

The other two are Conservative fortresses set in Alberta — the province that has been most resilient, according to the polls on voting intentions, to Trudeau's sunny ways.

If Trudeau failed to hold Ottawa-Vanier, Saint-Laurent and Markham-Thornhill on April 3, it would not be a leap to conclude that there is not a safe Liberal seat in the country. Ditto for the Conservatives in the case of Calgary Midnapore and Calgary Heritage.

What makes this set of byelections special is not its probable non-impact on the makeup of the House of Commons but rather the big shoes that the incumbents are leaving behind for others to try to fill.

**Voters are about to turn a definitive corner on generational change on the Hill.**

The April 3 vote marks the end of an era in more ways than one.

Stephen Harper initially came to the House of Commons as part of the contingent of Reform MPs that took the Hill by storm in 1993. He was the last of them to be elected — in Calgary Heritage — in 2015. In between, he did fulfil the core Reform promise to bring Alberta and Western Canada into the federal power loop. His constituents sent him off in style, with almost two-thirds of the votes cast in the riding in the last election.

April 3 votes won't change much, Hébert writes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Of the Quebec federal ministers who stared down into the post-referendum abyss Stéphane Dion was the last to still hold a seat.

On his first day as Jean Chrétien's post-referendum point minister, shortly after the 1995 referendum, Dion had said he was coming to Ottawa to change the reality of the country. Suffice it to say that, as the voters of Saint-Laurent get set to replace him, there has not been at the cabinet table a so-called unity minister for more than a decade. With Dion gone, that sweater may have to be retired.

Jason Kenney and John McCallum both made a mark, in different ways, as immigration ministers.

The first brought Canada's ethnically diverse communities inside the federal party's tent in a way that no other Conservative had in the past. Based on the fear-mongering undertone of the ongoing federal leadership campaign, it may take more than a new Conservative MP for the riding of Calgary-Midnapore to preserve that legacy.

McCallum presided over the execution of Justin Trudeau's signature promise to bring in more Syrian refugees. From his new diplomatic perch in Beijing, he will get to see whether that initiative marked the end of a more innocent age or the opposite. By moving on now, he may well have dodged a major refugee crisis.

As MP for Ottawa-Vanier Mauril Bélanger was very much the voice of Ontario's francophone community in Parliament, and it is a mantle he wore with grace.

The Liberals would like to give the Conservatives a bit of a run for their money in Calgary. They have an embarrassment of riches when it comes to potential candidates in Saint-Laurent but also a potential embarrassment to resolve.

Yolande James — Quebec's former immigration minister — is one of three candidates vying to run for the Liberals in Dion's riding. In her previous political incarnation, she twice supported the decision to deny access to French-language courses to a woman who insisted on wearing a niqab to class. That could put her on a collision course with Trudeau on a defining issue for the prime minister.

The NDP ran a distant second or third in all five ridings. It does not really have a dog in this fight. Things will be different if outgoing NDP leader Thomas Mulcair ever puts the riding of Outremont in play by deciding to not serve a full term as MP.

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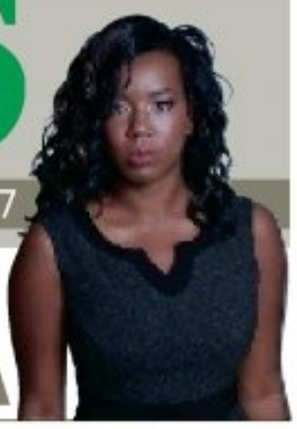
**Chantal Hébert** is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.



## VICKY MOCHAMA

# Lawyers little help in truth and reconciliation

In a deserved act of justice, Sixties Scoop survivors won a $1.3-billion class action against the federal government last week in an Ontario court. It's a relief to hear Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett say the government won't appeal the ruling.

But if the feds are really committed to truth and reconciliation, they must stand down the lawyers as the settlements are doled out.

Bennett's statement points to a relationship between Indigenous plaintiffs and the federal government that is still fraught.

This Sixties Scoop case was filed in 2009.

Only in the week prior to the ruling did Ottawa announce a sudden shift: now, they were willing to negotiate the claims of Indigenous children who had been removed from their families and adopted into non-Indigenous homes.

On this abrupt shift in tactics, the minister told the House, "We are adversaries no more," and "negotiation rather than litigation is our government's preferred route to settle these differences and right historical wrongs."

What a surprise that must have been to the Sixties Scoop survivors who, as recently as December, had been in court while government lawyers argued that Canada had no "duty of care" for these Indigenous children.

Despite public claims towards working on a nation-to-nation approach, lawyers for the Liberal government were continuing to defend against cases brought by Indigenous peoples.

Take the residential schools class action — the largest in Canadian history. The settlements, now over $3 billion, provide for residential school survivors who experienced sexual and physical abuse. The agreement established the Independent Assessment Process, which was meant to provide a speedy out-of-court process for paying damages. Yet, lawyers for the government used the IAP to split hairs, leading to claims to be reduced or dismissed.

Despite a hard-fought agreement on residential schools, the government and its lawyers sought to shirk their responsibilities within it.

So while the Sixties Scoop ruling is a clear win for Indigenous people, it must be met with a government commitment to not penny-pinch, obfuscate or complicate.

That is a commitment that First Nations children have been waiting for. Over a year ago, the Human Rights Tribunal ruled that Ottawa was discriminating against First Nations kids by failing to provide equal welfare.

A year later, the case is back before the tribunal.

Canada has been very good at recording its systematic cruelty towards Indigenous people. And yet many have survived in spite of said cruelty.

After decades of forcing survivors to repeatedly relive traumas, it's time for the lawyers to step back and for the government to step up.

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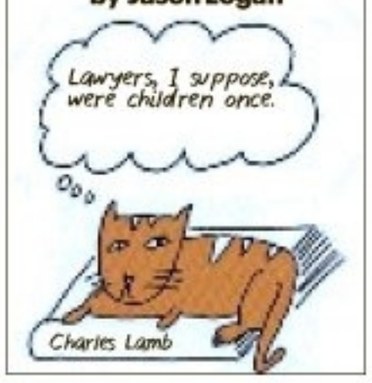


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Your essential daily news

Thursday, February 23, 2017

Jay Z will become the first rapper ever inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame when he enters the prestigious organization in June.

# Cracking code of a fortress of nostalgia

INTERVIEW

## Jason Rekulak's writing debut dives back into '80s childhood

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

America's favourite letter-turner, Vanna White, nearly lost her golden-girl image when she appeared on the cover of the May 1987 issue of Playboy.

The racy photos were scandalous to many loyal Wheel of Fortune viewers, but for three hormonal teenage boys, getting hold of a copy of the coveted magazine turned into the setup for the biggest, most risky caper of their young lives.

No, that's not a premise from a long-lost John Hughes screenplay, but the opening to Jason Rekulak's debut novel, The Impossible Fortress, a geeky but sweet coming-of-age love story set in motion by the boys' desperate attempts to peek inside Playboy.

Billy — who is just as obsessed with programming crude video games on his Commodore 64 as he is with Vanna's nakedness — along with his pals, Clark and Alf, plan a heist that involves breaking into Zelinsky's convenience store to grab a copy of the magazine.

Billy is tasked with seducing Zelinky's daughter, Mary, to get the store's security code, but as it turns out, she too is a whip-smart computer coder, and they become fast friends. The duo starts working together on the titular game, The Impossible Fortress (which is available to play on the website jasonrekulak.com), when Billy falls in love, and the lure of Vanna in lingerie begins to fade.

Rekulak doesn't consider himself a nostalgic guy, but was feeling so when he started writing The Impossible Fortress. After his father became ill, Rekulak returned to his hometown, on which the book's fictional location Wentbridge — referred to as the Armpit of New Jersey — was modelled. He was spending a lot of time at the hospital with his dad, and while there, bought a notebook from the gift shop.

"I started writing down stories of all these people I was seeing under very unfortunate circumstances," he says. "Some of them were real and some were made up. Maybe it was a therapeutic exercise, but also proof you can write anywhere."

Like Billy, Rekulak was once a young self-taught programmer, but later switched his computer science major to English in second-year university.

It was writing video games that set Rekulak on the path to becoming an author, and to his current job as publisher of the Philadelphia press Quirk Books, where he's edited blockbusters like Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children and Pride and Prejudice and Zombies.

"I wanted to build all these worlds and tell all these stories, but I was never really good at coding or actually programming stuff," Rekulak says. The graphics on the early games Rekulak built were so simple, he added screens and screens of text to build out the stories. "I'd write these long histories of these stick figures," he says. "It gave me this freedom and confidence to write on screen."

Rekulak — who is definitely a kid of the '80s — filled The Impossible Fortress with pop-culture gems from his own life, from Freddy Krueger to Magnum P.I., but was never concerned about explaining the references to younger, millennial-aged readers, who have never dialled a rotary phone, or used a floppy disk.

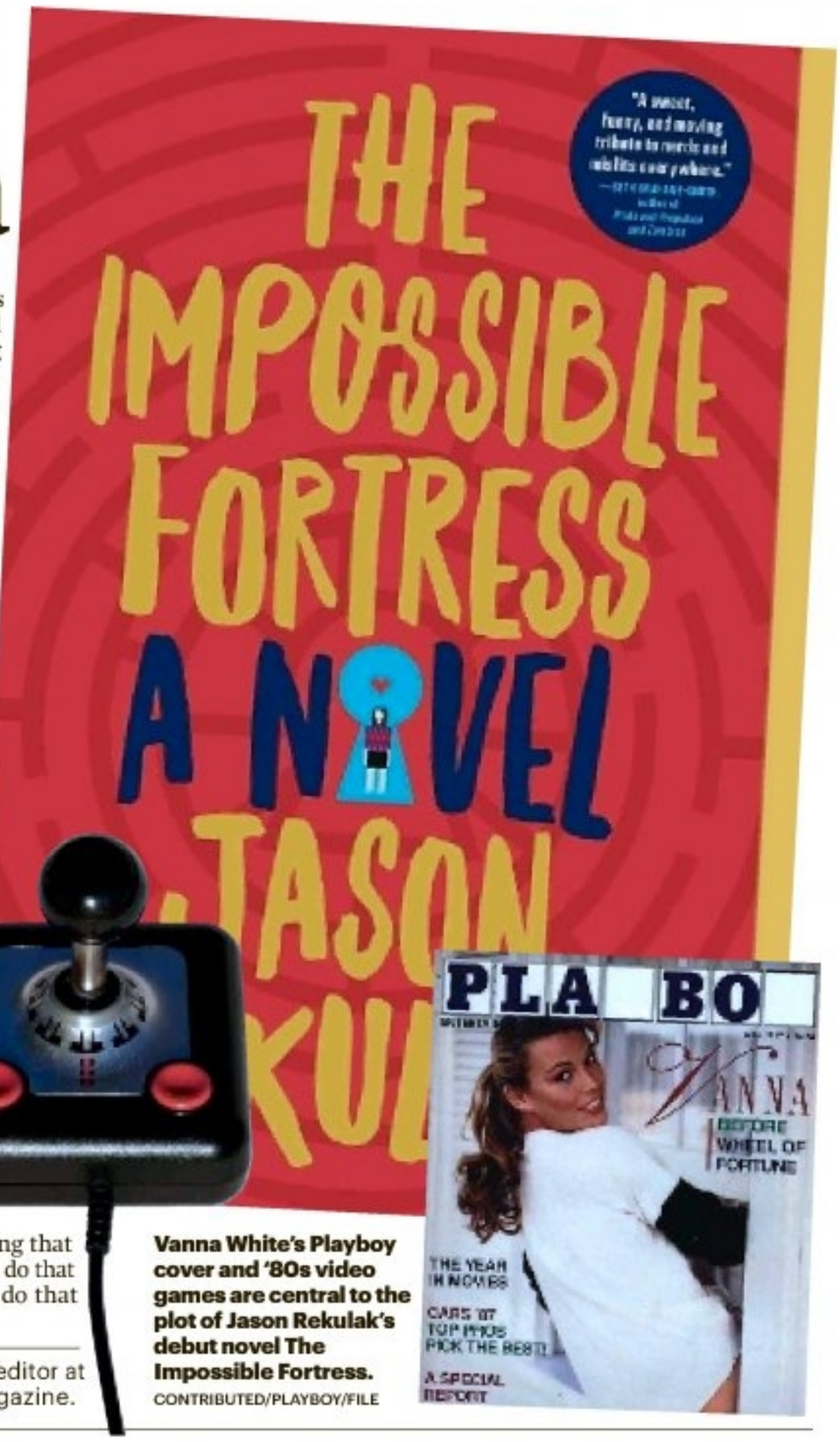
It takes him back to his own teen years, reading Stephen King's 1982 novella, The Body (which became the 1986 movie Stand By Me). He recalls not understanding all of King's references to 1950s culture, yet it didn't hinder his enjoyment of the book.

In fact, he re-read it while working on The Impossible Fortress.

Rekulak says, "I was thinking that if Stephen King can do that for the '50s, I can do that for the '80s."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

**I was thinking that if Stephen King can do that for the '50s, I can do it for the '80s.**
Jason Rekulak




**Vanna White's Playboy cover and '80s video games are central to the plot of Jason Rekulak's debut novel The Impossible Fortress.**
CONTRIBUTED/PLAYBOY/FILE

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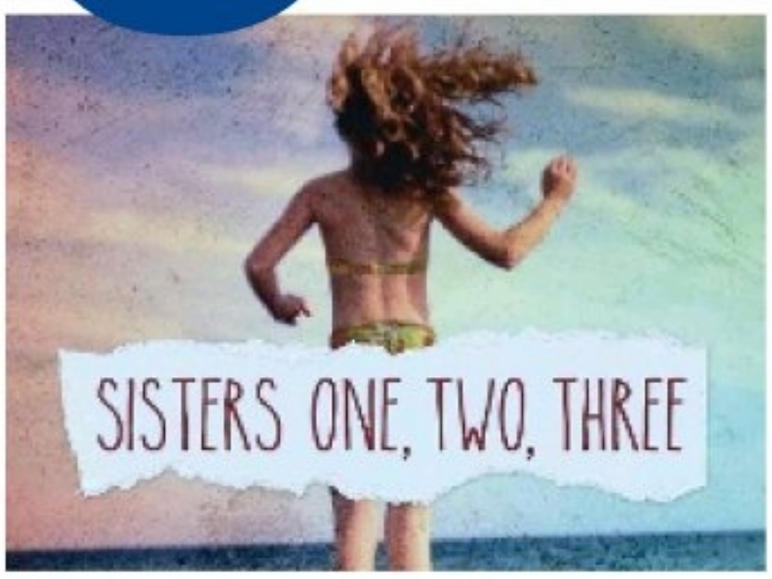
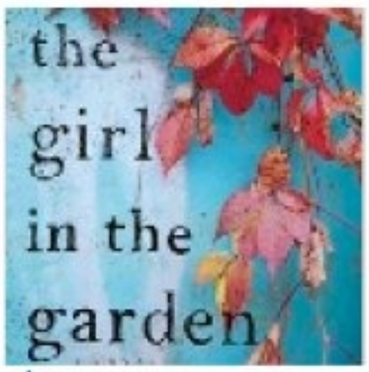
# 5 BOOKS EXPLORING THE DYNAMICS OF DIVERSE FAMILIES

We don't need to tell you that families come in many shapes and forms. From Victorian England to an experiment in utopian parenting and plenty in between, here are five new books that remind us all that there really is no such thing as a traditional family unit. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE




## 1 Tangled ties of sisterhood

A tragic accident occurred when the Tangle family of New Jersey — father Solly, mother Glory and four kids ranging from 13 to 6 — went to Martha's Vineyard on vacation in the 1970s, a life-altering event that marked each of the three Tangle daughters in different ways as adults. **Sisters One, Two, Three** is a fine multi-generational family story about the ties between sisters and the need to confront past trauma. Author Nancy Star is a former movie executive and this is her fifth novel.




## 2 Surrogate guardians

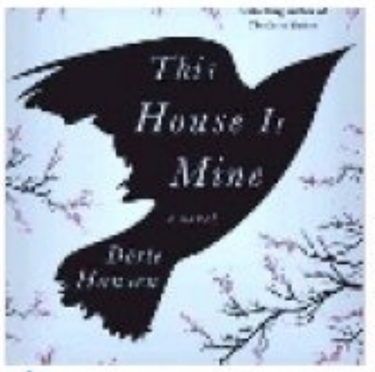
In Melanie Wallace's **The Girl In The Garden**, an abandoned young mother and her baby arrive on the New England coast and are soon adopted by locals who have known one another for decades. This diverse group of surrogate guardians includes, a recluse, a prodigal daughter, a widow, a veteran and a lawyer — each with his or her own passions and secrets. Wallace has written The Housekeeper and Blue Horse Dreaming.

## 3 Collective parenting

The Infinite Family Project, headed by the well-meaning though awkward psychologist Preston Grind, is a utopian experiment in collective parenting, perhaps even a model for a well-adjusted life. Ten families have been selected, each with one child, including the central character in Kevin Wilson's **Perfect Little World**, Izzy Poole, the only single mother in the group. Wilson is attracted to stories involving unconventional child-rearing.

## 4 A very Victorian clan

Cambridge professor Simon Goldhill's **A Very Queer Family Indeed** introduces us to this odd family with a kiss, in 1853, between Edward White Benson, 23, and his future wife, Minnie Sidgwick, then 12. They married when she was 18 and in short order had six children. Edward became Archbishop of Canterbury; Minnie (Mary) left Edward and the kids when she found she much preferred women.




## 5 Forging a new belonging

**This House Is Mine** is the story of two women who find each other and forge a family. Vera arrived at the old farmhouse in East Prussia as a five-year-old refugee 60 years ago — and, to this day, remains a stranger. As the story opens, her niece, Anne, and her young son arrive at the house after fleeing the Hamburg neighbourhood where Anne, too, has never felt she belonged. Things unfold from their alternating perspectives.

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

# The episode Dunham was born to direct

**THE SHOW: Girls, Season 6, Episode 3**
**THE MOMENT: Hannah's face**

Hannah (series creator Lena Dunham) wrote a blog that went viral about a famous novelist (The Americans' Matthew Rhys) whom four women have accused of sexual misconduct. He invited her to his elegant apartment. For the entire episode, he explains his position (he didn't pressure the women; they made their own choices), and she explains hers (pressure isn't always apparent). Both are equally articulate and respectful.

Near the end, they lie on his bed. "I'm sorry I wrote something about you that upset you so much without considering all the facts," Hannah says.

"That's all right, I'm not angry," he replies. Then he does something, and she does something, that surprises her. She springs off the bed.

At that moment, his daughter comes home. She wants to play her flute for him, and invites Hannah to stay. As Hannah watches the novelist watch his daughter, the camera slowly moves in, parsing her expression.

This is the episode Dunham was born to write. This is the issue Girls grabbed the zeitgeist to address, in all its thorny complexity. The back and forth is electric, yet scrupulously fair. In this series' final season, Hannah is growing up, and we see that here.

I watched this with my 23-year-old daughter, and we had different reactions to Hannah's expression: Is she angry at the novelist? At herself? Or is there acceptance? Social media is going to go nuts.

Just as you're making up your mind, Dunham delivers one more tracking shot. It will stop you cold.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

**Lena Dunham and Matthew Rhys's back and forth in the latest Girls episode is electric, yet scrupulously fair.** CONTRIBUTED

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# If I had one piece of financial advice to give...

**Camilla Cornell**

When it comes to your finances, it's easy to get bogged down in conflicting advice and unimportant details. We asked four financial bloggers to offer a single key piece of advice to help ordinary folks get, and stay, on track for RRSP season. Here's what they had to say:

**Marie Engen.** CONTRIBUTED

*MARIE ENGEN, 62, FEE-ONLY FINANCIAL PLANNER*
West Kelowna, B.C.
**Blog:** Boomer and Echo, boomerandecho.com
**Key advice:** Budgeting is a crucial factor in making regular RRSP contributions.

In order to come up with an RRSP contribution, you need a realistic budget that allows room for saving. Begin by taking a look at your bank and credit card statements for the last six to 12 months to analyze spending.

Since it's often tough for beginning budgeters to know where their money should be going, I sometimes recommend allocating 50 per cent of cash flow to fixed costs like rent and car payments, 20 per cent to financial goals (paying off debt or retirement savings), and 30 per cent for flexible spending.

Like most rules of thumb, this won't work for everyone — you might have to adjust the parameters if you live in an expensive city, or are heavily in debt.

*KYLE PREVOST, 29, TEACHER*
Manitoba
**Blog:** Young and Thrifty, youngandthrifty.ca
**Key advice:** RRSP vs. TFSA? Who cares! Just do something.

People sometimes get so tied up about whether to invest in an RRSP or TFSA that they don't do either.

**Kyle Prevost.** CONTRIBUTED

My rule of thumb is this: If you predict your yearly RRSP withdrawals, OAS, CPP, and/or a pension in retirement will all add up to less than half of what you currently make — use an RRSP. If you think those revenues will add up to close to the annual income figure that you're currently pulling down, go with a TFSA.

Generally people making less than $40,000 would be better off in a TFSA, while people making more than $120,000 and wanting to live a traditional middle-class Canadian retirement would be better off with an RRSP.

**Dan Bortolotti.** CONTRIBUTED

But ultimately, the important thing is to make sure your spending is in check so you have money to invest.

*DAN BORTOLOTTI, 47, ASSOCIATE PORTFOLIO MANAGER AT PWL CAPITAL*
Toronto
**Blog:** Canadian Couch Potato, canadiancouchpotato.com
**Key advice:** Keep an eye on fees. As investors we can't control everything: we have no idea which direction the markets will move, whether interest rates will rise or fall, or what the next economic shock will be. But investment costs are one thing we can control. And over time, lowering your costs can have a huge impact on your portfolio's growth.

Consider a $100,000 portfolio and assume the markets return six per cent before costs. If a two per cent fee reduces that return to four per cent, the portfolio will be worth $271,377 after 25 years (compounded monthly). If you can earn five per cent by lowering your fees one percentage point, the same portfolio would grow to $348,129 over the same period.

How can you keep fees low? I usually advise beginner investors to choose a do-it-yourself option. This is easy thanks to the appearance of so-called "robo-advisors," that offer well diversified, low-cost portfolios of exchange traded funds, which typically include all of the stocks or bonds in a broad market index. Including the cost of the ETFs, the overall fee with these online firms is about 0.75 per cent.

*BARRY CHOI, 35, PERSONAL FINANCE EXPERT*
Toronto
**Blog:** Money We Have, moneywehave.ca
**Key advice:** There are times when you shouldn't invest in an RRSP.

This pretty much goes against all conventional thinking especially at this time of the year, but there are times when investing in your RRSP might not be the best idea.

If you have high interest debt owing, don't even think about investing in your RRSP. Ditto if your income is lower than the basic personal amount allowed in Canada (line 300 of your income tax return). There's really no point, as you won't get a tax refund anyway.

**Barry Choi.** CONTRIBUTED


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metro HOME

Your essential daily news

Billie Lourd, actor and daughter of Carrie Fisher, lists Santa Monica home for $2.4M

# Global influence: How to style travel finds

Find new uses for rugs, which can double as wall hangings or be made into pillows or used as upholstry for accent pieces. ISTOCK

INTERIORS

## Bring rugs and souvenirs into your home to update décor

As part of the globalism trend, tribal style — batik fabrics, Dutch Wax and itak prints — has spread from fashion to home décor. There's a caravan of interesting furniture and accessories that work in any space, from the sleek and contemporary to the simple and functional.

"It's a look that's meant to reflect the places you've been and decorative objets you brought home," says New York designer Elaine Griffin.

Rugs are a big part of the style, and not just on the floor. Griffin says "the flat-weave kilim and dhurrie rugs that are now back with a vengeance move stylishly onto upholstered chairs, sofas and ottomans."

Kilim rugs are admired for their bold, geometric flat-weave patterns. They've been hand-woven for generations in North Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

A lot of their appeal lies in the bold motifs and pigment dyes, with elements like wolf's mouths, stars and fertility symbols interpreted in geometric patterns. Back in Victorian England, smoking rooms and nooks were rife with kilim-covered furniture.

British manufacturer George Smith is known for kilim upholstery marked by careful pattern alignment and crisply tucked edges. They make a range of armchairs and benches covered in detailed modern and vintage Turkish flat-weaves.

Karma Living's collection of smartly styled midcentury modern chairs and footstools are upholstered in bold stripes and tribal patterns.

Both new and antique versions are interesting, working well not only as upholstery, but as wall hangings or table coverings. The hand-crafted nature of kilims, Oriental and rag rugs plays well with woods and metals. White walls make them pop, while more saturated hues are complementary frames.

Joss & Main's style director, Donna Garlough, says pouf ottomans are one of her favourite twists on the trend.

"They're a great way to add a pop of pattern to a room, and you can use them for extra seating if you're having a party," she says.

An added bonus of these materials is that they're pretty tightly woven and durable, and the bright patterns often camouflage stains.

"You don't have to worry as much about a toddler spilling juice on a kilim-covered cocktail ottoman as you would if the upholstery were linen or leather," Garlough says.

Atlanta-based artist and textile designer Beth Lacefield has done a collection of kilim poufs for Surya in both muted tones and vibrant hues like raspberry, burnt orange and olive green.

Boston designer Jill Rosenwald's pouf collection for the retailer is also inspired by Indian flat-weave rugs, with sophisticated chocolate browns, greys and other muted hues.

Crafters will find lots of ideas online for turning inexpensive rag rugs from big box stores into floor pillows, headboard covers and benches.

Courtney Schutz, a designer in Point Reyes, California, turned a staid, traditional, upholstered bench into a fun piece for a girls' room by gilding the legs and covering the seat with a gumball-colored rag rug.

On the website Style Me Pretty, Toronto designer Jacquelyn Clark offers a simple tutorial on sewing throw-rug pieces into a square, filling it with foam beads, and then closing it up with thread or a zipper to make a big pillow.

While the kilims have an earthy rusticity, distressed wool, linen or silk rugs can make a more elegant piece. Pottery Barn has a cotton velvet line inspired by Persian carpeting. And West Elm's Ornament velvet pouf comes in sophisticated, soothing hues of ivory or platinum. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### INTERIOR OPTIONS

**All it takes is an accent piece**

**Foot stool**
The Mindy ottoman, by Joss & Main, which is upholstered in a rugged yet stylish material inspired by kilim rugs. Made in India and hand woven, the wool cover features a chevron motif and is secured to the wooden frame using brass nails.

**Throw pillow**
A pillow by AllModern features rich, earthy hues and bold geometrics which make for this striking — and sturdy — piece. Kilim rug weaves are trending off the floor, in pillows and upholstery, as part of the global and tribal décor trends.

**Pouf**
The Hailey pouf by Joss & Main is covered in a bold geometric kilim material. "An added bonus of these rug materials is that they're tightly woven and durable, and the bright patterns camouflage stains, " says Joss & Main style director Donna Garlough. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALL PHOTOS HANDOUT

**"It's a look that's meant to reflect the places you've been and decorative objects you brought home**
Elaine Griffin, designer

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# The Azria's 1930s estate hits market

SUNSET BLVD.

## A peek inside Maison du Soleil reveals signature hue

Ubiquitous orange accents inject pops of cheeriness to the bar lounge.

A 3-D ceiling installation reflects pumpkin-coloured carpets in entertainment area. ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

It's sunny side up all the way at Maison du Soleil on Sunset Blvd. Smiles are built into the colourful décor and cosiness envelopes every room of the Los Angeles trophy estate.

The luxuriously appointed home was intended to be "candy for the eyes," according to owner Lubov Azria, half of the power couple behind the fashion house BCBG Max Azria Group.

Much of the house is decorated in cheery orange, her husband Max's favourite colour, Azria says during a video tour for Haute Havens.

With its scale and grandeur — 60 rooms in total — the "house of the sun" is beyond spacious. Yet you never feel lost or overwhelmed, according to Alla Furman of Hilton & Hyland, an affiliate of Christie's International Real Estate.

"It's very cosy the way it's furnished," she says. "It's grand because of the high ceilings but there's a warmth that makes it very inviting and livable."

**THE LISTING**
Price: $88M
Size: 30,000 sq. ft.
Bedrooms: 17
Bathrooms: 22

As one example, Azria describes her living room as "happy," with its collection of sunburst mirrors — which give the house its name — and whimsical touches, such as toy sheep lined up along one wall.

The room itself is alive with vibrant jewel tones, anchored by a wavy-patterned area carpet.

Maison du Soleil was designed in the late 1930s by architect Paul Williams, whose classic Hollywood homes have been occupied by celebrities such as Frank Sinatra, Lucille Ball and Denzel Washington, among others.

After the Azrias bought the house from writer and producer Sidney Sheldon, they did a major renovation and rebuild 10 years ago, which blended contemporary design elements with classic architecture. The gated estate near Beverly Hills occupies just over one hectare in the Holmby Hills neighbourhood, which is home to such celebrity pads as the Playboy Mansion.

In keeping with the glamorous lifestyles of area residents, the Azrias have enjoyed entertaining as many as 150 people in their lavish abode. They've also raised six children there.

A separate 6,000-square-foot building houses a home theatre with a catalogue of 7,000 films to entertain guests. Above the theatre is a guest suite and office, which Max has embellished with a 14-karat gold ceiling.

The former pool house, converted to a sumptuous spa, boasts a Moroccan theme that creates the atmosphere of a Mediterranean vacation, according to Furman.

She's also captivated by the estate's five themed gardens, including French and Japanese, where "you feel like you're surrounded by nature."

After numerous visits to the elegant and energizing compound, Furman sums up the experience in simple terms: "It's like you're in paradise."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

### BRING IT HOME

**Develop an orange crush**

Chase away the winter blahs by bringing the sun inside. Warm shades of yellow and orange can enliven a room with a painted feature wall or new accents, such as cushions, table linens and artwork.

A potted plant or fresh flowers will bring affordable, instant freshness and colour to a space.

To let in more natural light and get a jump on spring cleaning, wash windows, replace heavy window coverings with lightweight fabrics or shades, or add a large mirror or shiny surfaces to reflect incoming light.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE


metro HOME MATTERS

Looking for skilled professionals to help with home maintenance or renovation projects? Time to tackle that project in your house that has been bugging you for too long but you're not sure where to go for help? Look no further! Below is a list of local qualified outlets looking to help you out.

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metro

# METRO SPACES

## Carefree living in bustling North Kildonan

When you're looking to simplify and enjoy the good life, ease of living goes a long way.

That's the philosophy behind Ruth Gardens, a 10-storey adult community in Winnipeg's North Kildonan neighbourhood. Now leasing affordable luxury suites, the development was built to create a maintenance-free haven for residents.

"You'll live worry-free here," says Mike Ambrose of Edison Properties, the property management company behind Ruth Gardens, which has more than 50 years of property management experience. "The development was designed to take care of everything residents need."

CONTRIBUTED

That philosophy extends into every facet of life at Ruth Gardens.

The luxury residences provide a high standard of living, with every comfort and convenience considered. Residents enjoy home finishings that are high quality and easy to maintain, including quality countertops, glass tile backsplashes, walk-in closets in the master bedroom, stainless steel appliances and in-suite laundry.

Every suite has individually controlled heating and air conditioning, to ensure you stay comfortable, and the utility costs are paid by the landlord, so you can trust your monthly costs to stay the same month-to-month.

Carefree living at Ruth Gardens applies to the building maintenance too. The heavy lifting is done for you. Residents never have to lift a snow shovel or mow the lawn. The experienced on-site resident manager and cleaning staff are fast and responsive whenever you need them.

Conveniences are incorporated throughout the building for residents. They can keep their cars safe and protected from the elements in the heated underground parking facility. Accessibility is a priority in the building, with six elevators located throughout the complex to take you right to your door.

On top of the conveniences located onsite, the location of Ruth Gardens couldn't be better, with shopping centres, restaurants, walking trails and a golf and country club all an easy walk close by. When you need to go grocery shopping, take the free shuttle service exclusive for Ruth Gardens residents.

At Ruth Gardens, two-bedroom apartment rentals start at just $1,300 per month, so you can enjoy life's luxuries at an affordable cost.

Visit ruthgardens.ca or call 204-515-5529 to find out if a home at Ruth Gardens is right for you.

**A variety of two bedroom apartments are available in Ruth Gardens, North Kildonan's newest luxury apartment complex. Featuring:**

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**1167 Rothesay Street**
**www.RuthGardens.ca | (204) 515-5529**

EDISON PROPERTIES

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# Sage Creek, a community with something extra

In more ways than one, Sage Creek offers those searching for a new neighbourhood much more than just a place to build — it's a place to experience. Bursting with energy and life, the community has been carefully designed with residents in mind by providing daily conveniences right in their own backyard.

"Sage Creek has become a thriving community and it continues to develop not only when it comes to the number of new homes and residents, but exciting new businesses that have become part of the unique Village Centre," says Eric Vogan of Qualico Communities.

The Village Centre is conveniently located in the heart of Sage Creek, right off Lagimodiere Blvd, and includes retail stores and amenities that appeal to its diverse community. A market-style Sobeys, Shoppers Drug Mart and a Liquor Mart are anchor stores, plus a variety of specialty businesses along the enticing Burning Glass Road.

Annie Clark, who has lived in Sage Creek for over five years was initially drawn by the comprehensive vision for the area. Today, she appreciates the depth of amenities available as well as the sense of community she's discovered.

"I joined Orangetheory Fitness and I'm meeting a ton of new people there from around the area. Plus, I love the workouts," Clark says. "There is everything here now and it's rare that I have to leave Sage Creek to go get something."

Spring Parade of Homes begins on March 4th and you'll have the chance to view 11 show homes and one fantastic townhouse condominium, which will all be open for extended hours. The community is growing all the time, so be sure to take a tour of the neighbourhood and see what Sage Creek has to offer.

"It's a small town feel, which is hard to come by when building in the city," Vogan says. "Residents have access to whatever they need in their backyard and those in neighbouring communities are gaining the benefits, which is creating a positive buzz."

CONTRIBUTED





*Since 2006, more than 1500 families have made the move to SAGE CREEK, a trailblazing community that invites you to live a more vibrant lifestyle.*

Recreation, fitness, shopping, dining, services – there's so much to see and do here that you won't want to leave! With the **growing Village Centre** to family events in the park and the **new K-8 school** already well under construction, this is a community that's full of amazing possibilities.

**UNEXPECTED ACTIVITY** Sage Creek is built for walking, running, biking or even cross-country skiing! No matter the season or weather, it's the perfect community for those who enjoy the outdoors and appreciate a vibrant lifestyle. The community's many trails, paths and rich wetlands are always teeming with activity.

**VISIT A SHOW HOME TODAY!**
***Show Homes open 6 days a week. For hours and information, please visit sagecreek.ca***

SAGE CREEK

metro SPORTS

Dan Marino has "re-signed" with Miami so he can officially retire as a member of the Dolphins

**CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SEVILLA OUTFOXES LEICESTER** Leicester City's Kasper Schmeichel stops an early penalty from Sevilla's Joaquin Correa during Wednesday's Round of 16 Champions League match in southern Spain. Despite the early penalty miss, Sevilla went on to win 2-1 over the English champions on goals from Pablo Sarabia and Correa. Jamie Vardy scored his first goal of 2017 to give the visitors hope for the return leg back in Leicester on March 14. In Wednesday's other Champions League match, Juventus beat host Porto 2-0. MICHAEL REGAN/GETTY IMAGES

NHL

## Burns has rare feat within his reach

Brent Burns has a chance to move into the rarefied air of legendary defenceman Bobby Orr.

The 31-year-old from Barrie, Ont., could become only the second defenceman to ever win the Art Ross trophy as the NHL's leading scorer, joining Orr who did it twice for the Boston Bruins — the last time in 1975.

With 64 points, Burns ranks third in the scoring race entering Wednesday's action, only three points back of Connor McDavid for the overall lead.

Burns is on pace for 37 goals and 88 points, totals that are practically unheard of for an NHL defenceman. Only two have ever hit both marks in the same season and they're both Hall of Famers from earlier eras — Orr and Paul Coffey did it three times each.

**Brent Burns** GETTY IMAGES

"What Burnsy's doing is great," said Ottawa captain Erik Karlsson, 12 points back of Burns with 52 this year. "It's good for the league. It's good for everybody. It shows that it's possible."

With 27 goals, Burns has more than the entire defence corps of 19 teams. THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Stumbles, tumbles come with territory

CURLING

## Top women's sweepers share stories of spills on the ice

From funny to frightening, falling is a fact of life in curling.

Elite curlers are not immune. An informal survey of women at the Canadian championship yields a few stories about feet leaving the ice and elbows, arms and buttocks taking the brunt of a spill.

"I probably have a really good fall at least once a season," Alberta lead Alison Thiessen said.

A wipeout can happen in a practice, a league game or in front of rolling cameras at national championships recording the pratfall for posterity.

The women move so comfortably on the ice at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts in St. Catharines, Ont., it's easy to forget they have a slider on one shoe that can turn into a banana peel.

Falls aren't surprising when you consider curlers lunge out of the hack balancing on one foot far ahead of the other.

They lean their body weight into their broom heads to maximize sweeping pressure while stepping over a minefield of guards in front of the rings.

Injury is a possibility but uncommon at their level of curling, what concerns the women more is if they go down is touching the rock in motion with their brooms or bodies. The stone is then "burned" and immediately removed from play.

A spill in practice might produce nothing worse than giggles, but in an important game, it's mortifying.

"My first Scotties, we were playing against Shannon Kleibrink and it was my first ever game on TSN," Ontario lead Lisa Weagle recalled.

"First, I burned one of (skip) Rachel's rocks sweeping and the next end I fell while sweeping. I didn't burn that rock, but super-embarrassing. We managed to win the game somehow. I've never been happier to get off the ice."

Getting out of the way of a sliding rock is their priority as opposed to protecting themselves when they land on the ice.

Northern Ontario's front end of Ashley Sippala and Sarah Potts have a pact. If one goes down, the other sweeper has permission to push her teammate out of the way as hard as it takes.

"One time Ashley fell in front of a rock," Potts said. "It was funny because it was a scrub game and it didn't matter. I took my broom and I shoved her out of the way. If I fall in front of the rock, she should shove."

Brad Gushue's face plant at The Masters in October 2015 that resulted in stitches and a swollen eye was a wake-up call that crashes in curling can be more than just embarrassing.

Curling Canada introduced return-to-play concussion protocol mandatory for all their events a year ago. The organization also recommends protective headgear. THE CANADIAN PRESS

**You kind of just move your broom, let the rock go by and tuck and roll.** Ontario second Joanne Courtney

### HOMAN BOOKS PLAYOFF SPOT

Ontario's Rachel Homan clinched a playoff spot at the Canadian women's curling championship with her ninth victory.

Homan downed Northern Ontario's Krista McCarville 7-6 in an extra end to stay unbeaten at 9-0 Wednesday.

Ontario takes on Manitoba's Michelle Englot (8-1) Thursday evening.

**Ontario skip Rachel Homan** SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

## Pitches pulled from intentional walks

There won't be any wild pitches on intentional walks this season.

The players' association has agreed to Major League Baseball's proposal to have intentional walks without pitches this year.

"It doesn't seem like that big of a deal. I know they're trying to cut out some of the fat. I'm OK with that," Cleveland manager Terry Francona said.

**932**

**There were 932 intentional walks last year — 600 in the National League.**

While the union has resisted many of MLB's proposed innovations, such as raising the bottom of the strike zone, installing pitch clocks and limiting trips to the mound, players are willing to accept the intentional walk change.

"There are details, as part of that discussion, that are still being worked through, however," union head Tony Clark wrote Wednesday in an email to The Associated Press. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### IN BRIEF

**Davis, White won't defend Olympic ice dance gold**

Meryl Davis and Charlie White won't be defending their Olympic ice dance gold medal in South Korea.

The Sochi champions haven't competed for three seasons, so their announcement Wednesday hardly was a surprise.

Maia and Alex Shibutani, the two-time American champions and current world runners-up, will be their successors, contending against the likes of Canada's Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**'Melo expects to stay put in New York with Knicks**

Carmelo Anthony hasn't heard anything from the New York Knicks that makes him believe he's being traded.

A day before the NBA's trade deadline, Anthony said Wednesday that he expects to remain with the Knicks, since they've given him no indication they're looking to deal their All-Star forward.

The 32-year-old forward, who has said he wants to stay with the Knicks, has a rare no-trade clause and would have to agree to any deal. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MAKE IT TONIGHT

# *Spicy* Beef Tacos

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

**Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh**
For Metro Canada

A sweet and spicy mashup is the key to the addictive flavour of these simple beef tacos..

**Ready in 40 minutes**
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes
Serves 6

**Ingredients**
- 1 large sweet potato, diced into bite-size pieces
- 1 Tbsp (15 ml) olive oil
- 1 1/2 tsp (7.5 ml) salt, divided
- 1/2 red onion, thinly sliced and rinsed in very warm water
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) sugar
- pinch of salt
- 1/3 cup rice vinegar
- 2 lb. (900 g) organic lean ground beef
- 2 Tbsp (30 ml) chili powder
- 2 tsp (10 ml) ground cumin
- 1 tsp (5 ml) cinnamon
- 1 tsp (5 ml) dried oregano
- 1 tsp (5 ml) pepper
- 2 tsp (10 ml) salt
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) shaved Monterey jack cheese
- Handful chopped fresh cilantro
- 8 corn tortillas
- jar of prepared salsa

**Directions**

**1.** Preheat oven to 400. Toss sweet potato with olive oil and 1/2 tsp (2ml) salt. Spread on a lined baking sheet and bake 5 to 7 minutes. Toss and bake another 5 minutes, or until fork tender. Remove from oven and place in a bowl; set aside.

**2.** In a small bowl, dissolve sugar and salt in vinegar, add the onions; set aside.

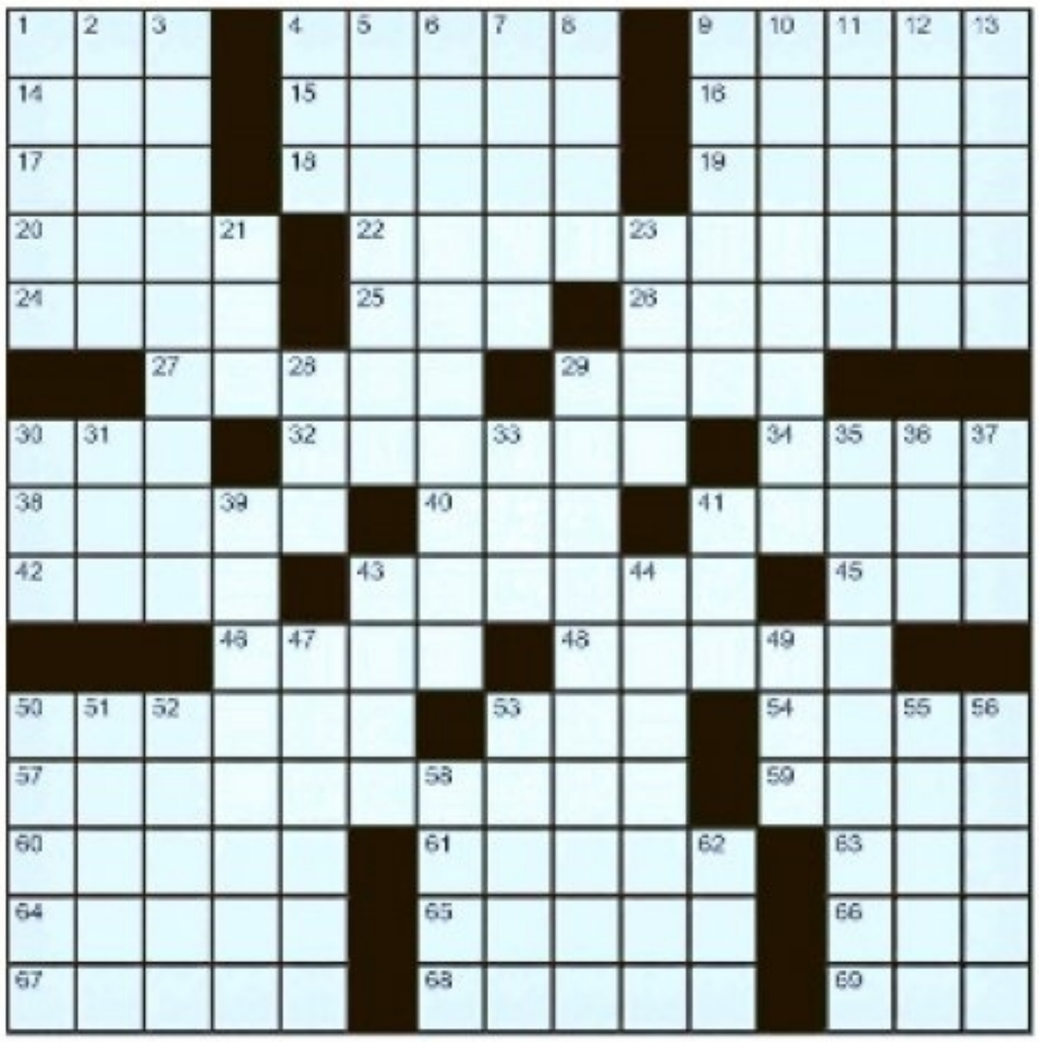
**3.** In large skillet, cook beef over medium heat, breaking up with spoon, until browned, 10 minutes.

**4.** Meanwhile, in a small bowl, blend spices and garlic. Stir into meat; cook another 2 minutes. Remove from heat and transfer half to a serving dish. Put other half in an airtight container and refrigerate. Place beef, sweet potato, red onion, cheese, cilantro, salsa and tortillas out for taco assembly.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

# CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



**ACROSS**
1. '_' _ for Zeballos
4. Looked with bewilderment
9. Not suitable
14. "_ had it!" (Enough!)
15. Range
16. More pallid
17. Fall mo.
18. Gawk
19. Show clemency
20. Steel shade
22. Saskatchewan village an hour and a half southeast of Regina
24. Since, to Robert Burns
25. Surgery sites, shortly
26. TomKat surname
27. Heidi author, Johanna _ (b.1827 - d.1901)
29. Fill with food
30. Antagonist
32. Get by day to day: 2 wds.
34. Un-evens
38. One isn't the final version
40. 1990s "Plush" rock gr.
41. Poke around
42. Stand
43. Long river in British Columbia
45. "For what reason?"
46. Hurting
48. V-shaped fortification facing the foe
50. Retort to "Am not!": 2 wds.
53. Intl. clock standard
54. Stratford-_-Avon
57. 'Amber' crop in Western Canada: 2 wds.
59. City commuter's cost
60. "The Wreck of the Mary _" (1959)
61. "Let me take you on _ _..." - Depeche Mode, "World in My Eyes"
63. Needs-to-be-sewn spot
64. Bygone car
65. Walt Whitman poem, _ _ the Body Electric
66. New Zealand parrot
67. Like a clarinetist's prop
68. Retro synthesizers
69. _-inclusive

**DOWN**
1. Moves swiftly
2. Off-white
3. They 'run high' in Ian & Sylvia's "Four Strong Winds": 2 wds.
4. Natural _
5. Sculpture, painting or ceramics
6. The blue above Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba: 2 wds.
7. Makes money
8. Tinted
9. Consequence
10. Elba's exile-ee
11. Strawberry _ Clock (Psychedelic band)
12. As such: 2 wds.
13. Old shipping weight allowances
21. "That's right.", quick-style
23. Broadway tune: "All _ Jazz"
28. Hitherto
29. Nickname for Canadian hockey great Mr. Lemieux: 2 wds.
30. US Pres. monogram
31. Q. "Is the eighth letter 'H' _ '_'?" A. "It's 'H'."
33. 'Capri' suffix
35. Garment from Canada Goose: 2 wds.
36. Homer Simpson's word
37. Operative
39. Showcased
41. Unhappy
43. "That '70s _"
44. Meshwork
47. Attractive
49. "_ Wiedersehen!"
50. Sort of viper, Puff _
51. Montreal: Mountain Street = _ _ la Montagne
52. Delete
53. "I _ _ tired of working..." - Peter Gabriel, "In Your Eyes"
55. Oxford University college
56. Kathmandu is its capital
58. Corey of "The Lost Boys" (1987)
62. Some movie ratings

# IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

**Aries** March 21 - April 20
Listen to someone older or more experienced today. This might be on a one-to-one basis, or this person might be in a group.

**Taurus** April 21 - May 21
Discussions with bosses, parents and VIPs will be practical today. People will be hands-on about finding a solution. These talks will be worthwhile.

**Gemini** May 22 - June 21
) This is a good day to make detailed plans for future travel. Likewise, it's a good day to make educational plans. If you have to study or write anything, you will not overlook details.

**Cancer** June 22 - July 23
Your efforts regarding inheritances, shared property, taxes, debt and other red-tape issues will produce results today. You are in a practical frame of mind and you have endurance.

**Leo** July 24 - Aug. 23
Someone older might have advice for you today, or vice versa. Either way, today you are concerned with practical solutions that are doable. No pie-in-thesky stuff.

**Virgo** Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This is a productive day for you because you are prepared to roll up your sleeves and get busy. You have an eye for detail, and you're not afraid of routine.

**Libra** Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
This is a good day to teach children. Likewise, it's an excellent day to practice a technique in music, sports or any art form, because you will have the patience to pay attention to detail.

**Scorpio** Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Tackle major repair projects at home today. This also is a good day for family discussions. Listen to the advice of older family members.

**Sagittarius** Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You have a patient, careful and detailoriented mental attitude today. You won't mind routine work, because you just want to get the job done.

**Capricorn** Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
If shopping today, you will be interested in buying long-lasting, practical items only. No feather boas for you! You will use your money wisely (as you generally do).

**Aquarius** Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Look around yourself today with a critical eye to see what needs to be done or corrected. You will quickly ask, "What's wrong with this picture?" You also might be a teacher to someone today.

**Pisces**
Feb. 20 - March 20
This is a wonderful day for research, because you are in the right frame of mind to wade through a myriad of details. You won't overlook anything.

**CONCEPTIS SUDOKU** by Dave Green

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| 4 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 6 |
| 1 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 2 |
| 6 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| 3 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 9 |
| 2 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 3 |
| 5 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 4 |

**Hip or Knee Replacement?**
The Disability Tax Credit allows for a
**$2,500 Yearly Tax Credit**
**$20,000 Lump Sum Refund** (on avg)
Copd, arthritis, and many other disabling conditions that cause **Restrictions in Walking or Dressing** may qualify.
For Expert Help: **204-453-5372**

JEUX DU CANADA GAMES

SPORT FOR LIFE CENTRE

MEDICINE CLINIC

# In pain?
# We can help!

**Book your appointment THIS WEEK at our Sport Medicine Clinic. Call us at 204-813-1031**

## SPORT WORK PLAY

The Sport Medicine Clinic is a sport, work or play injury service offered by Sport Manitoba for YOU! Our clinic is located in a 5,226 square foot facility located in Sport Manitoba's Canada Games Sport for Life Centre at 145 Pacific Avenue in the Exchange District. Our clinic is fully outfitted with modern equipment, staffed with experts from multiple disciplines and supports a wide spectrum of patients of all ages from all stages of life. We are open to the public and you don't need a referral.

IN THE EXCHANGE!

**Our name has changed as we proudly prepare to open the Canada Games Sport For Life Centre**

Sport MANITOBA

**www.sportmedicineclinic.ca**
**145 Pacific Avenue**